



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

The book is not altogether devoid of information, but it is, in the main, a kind of *feuilleton* rather than a piece of geographic literature. A great deal might have been said about the places described that would have been of lasting value. Dr. Daullia, however, sacrifices too much to the doubtfully witty. Whenever information is proffered it is not always correct. Thus the name of the celebrated St. Bernard dog, the mortal remains of which are preserved at the Museum of Berne, was not "Baril" but "Barry." Otherwise, the details given concerning these "Salvation" dogs are quite true.

No map accompanies this essay on the surroundings of Mont Blanc. The excellence of the photographic views compensates in part for the deficiency. The place of the book is with light literature of the semi-serious kind. A. F. B.

**Die Eisenbahnen, ihre Entstehung und gegenwärtige Verbreitung. Von F. Hahn.** 150 pp., Illustrations and Index. B. G. Teubner, Leipzig, 1905. (Price, M. 1.25.)

This interesting as well as edifying narrative treats of the origin, progress, and present distribution of railroads. It describes (1) pioneer railroad-building in England, Germany, and America; (2) railroad construction, rolling stock, signals, and other appliances so far as it is the purpose of the book to enter into the technical phases of the railroad business; (3) the great north and south roads, the great east and west roads, and the European mountain and city lines. The book is very readable, and at the same time full of information.

**In the West Indies. By W. B. F.** 64 pp. and 6 Illustrations from original photographs. Arnold Fairbairns, London, 1905. (Price, 1s.)

Contains ten articles, first printed in a British newspaper, and relating to Jamaica, Porto Rico, St. Thomas, the Boiling Lake of Dominica, cacao in Dominica, and Martinique. The book is well written, and gives a good idea of some of the islands from the tourist's standpoint. The author was very favourably impressed with the progress of Porto Rico (this is the official U. S. spelling, though the author uses the Spanish form). He says:

It is not too much to say that, from a place of economic insignificance, the American will raise Puerto Rico to an island of the first importance in the West Indies, and this result may be looked for in a very little while.

**Géographie agricole de la France et du Monde. Par J. Du Plessis de Grenédan.** With 118 maps and diagrams. Paris, Masson et Cie., 1905. (Price, 7 fr.)

The object of this book is to place at the disposal of the students, in a clear and concise form, a sum of information on geographic-agricultural matters which could not be otherwise acquired except by laborious researches all over the field of general geography, and this purpose has been admirably attained. The author has selected, from physical, political, and economical geography, all that is of importance for the study of agriculture: the influences of soil, elevation, climate, geological structure of a given region on its production, the distribution of various forms of cultivation and production according to geographic conditions, and the ways and means by which, in each case, these conditions can be utilized to best advantage. The book is thus theoretical and practical at the same time, and the scientific spirit which pervades either part of the discussion makes it especially valuable among other books of this kind.

In the geographic conditionality of agriculture the author distinguishes between "natural" and "artificial" conditions. The former are the strictly geographic influences; the latter those created by the intervention of human activity—drainage, irrigation and other improvements, agricultural machines, population, transportation, opportunities for industrial utilization of agricultural products, and the like. These two chapters, preceded by a systematic introduction on the principal physiographic features of the country and supplemented by two short ones on the distribution of the different cultures and the national wealth represented in them, constitute the "general agricultural geography." They are followed by the "special agricultural geography," which deals with each culture in a separate chapter, discussing its conditions and possibilities.

This general and special treatment of France forms the first, and by far the largest, part of the book. The second part deals with the French colonies in accordance with the same scheme, and the third, likewise, with the agricultural countries of the world. The author sums up his results in a conclusion from a comparative point of view. According to him, the agricultural situation of the present is characterized by the contrast between the powers of large and small territories, whose conditions and prospects for the future differ materially from each other. Among the large territories Russia stands first in size. Even after deducting her share of forest, tundra, and desert, there are 600 million hectares of arable land in her possession, a large proportion of which is exceedingly fertile (the "black earth"). But there is no capital to develop these lands, and labour, though cheap, is handicapped by ignorance, laziness, and the comparatively thin population of this enormous area. These obstacles may be overcome in the course of time, but there will always be the two drawbacks of the uneven continental climate and the scarcity and remoteness of seaports.

Next in size follow the United States. They have less arable land than Russia, and no part of it can compare in quality with the black earth; but the climate is more favourable because less uniform: temperate in the East, continental in the centre, oceanic in the West, subtropical in the South. The population is numerous, and constantly increasing by a strong immigration. Capital abounds. Labour, while more expensive than in the Old World, is also better skilled, and avails itself of high-grade machinery, which counterbalances the difference in wages. An unparalleled location between the two largest oceans, a perfect organization of enterprise, and the general spirit of progress of the nation warrant the brightest prospects for the future.

China, the third in size, has 400 million hectares of fertile alluvial soil, among which is the unrivalled loess. The climate is varied, like that of the United States; labour is abundant, cheap, and intelligent. But the lack of machinery makes it comparatively more expensive, and the political and social conditions retard development.

Brazil comes next, with as much arable land as China and beautiful forests besides. A favourable climate and the excellent quality of the soil may one day enable her to compete with the United States, but the scarcity of population puts this day off to a rather distant future.

Australia's greatest disadvantage is her remoteness from the rest of the civilized world; wool and meat will always be the stand-bys of her farming industries.

East Africa repeats the Australian conditions on a smaller scale.

Argentina, while not quite so large, has comparatively better chances, her soil being very fertile and her climate favourable for white immigrants.

Canada, rich in fertile lands and forests, suffers from lack of hands to exploit her resources.

India has her most fertile regions in the very parts where the climate is unfit for whites, and indigenous labour is slow and unreliable. She may, however, increase her production beyond the present status.

In comparison with these large countries all others are only second-class Powers. The first group of them is formed by the countries of western and central Europe, whose place in the world-market is due mainly to the intensity of cultivation practised in countries of an old civilization. While at present France is behind Germany in the industrial race, the author is confident that as soon as she wakes up to a full consciousness of her natural resources, which are considerably superior to those of her rival, she will outstrip the latter just as the latter has outstripped Great Britain.

Another group comprises the extra-European countries of second-class size, such as Japan, Chile, Mexico, the Andean republics, Western Asia, Turkey, and also Greece. None of them seems so far to give promise of ever playing a rôle on the world-markets. All they can do is to satisfy the needs of home consumption.

To a third group belong the tropical countries of Africa. Their destination is to furnish colonies to the civilized nations as long as the regeneration of the black race, upon which an independent development of these countries will finally depend, is as yet a matter of a very distant future.

The book is very well written, and the illustrations and map sketches add greatly to its usefulness.

M. K. G.

---

## OBITUARY.

ISRAEL COOK RUSSELL.—Professor Russell, head of the Department of Geology in the University of Michigan, died on May 1. He was attacked by pneumonia, and his illness was brief. He was born in Garrattsville, N. Y., in 1852, studied at New York and Columbia Universities, was for a short time assistant Professor of Geology at Columbia, and became Geologist in the U. S. Geological Survey in 1880. He retained this position, though he subsequently became Professor of Geology in the University of Michigan. He wrote many scientific papers and a number of books, and was one of the most prominent and productive geologists and geographers of the country. He was vice-president of the American Association in 1904, and at the time of his death was President of the American Geological Association and a member of the Council of the Association of American Geographers.